years old, if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(b) whether Government are aware that according to these old rules, Indian prisoners get much lesser and worse qual ity of daily diet than foreign prisoners;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prisoners in jail in the country do not get warm blankets and clothes for cold winter months; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI):

(a) to (d) Prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is essentially for the State Governments to amend and update their Jail Manuals depending upon the need. However, available information indicates that the State Governments, by and large, have been revising their Jail Manuals from time to time.

Diet scales for prisoners have been prescribed as per local requirements and food habits, etc. Woollen blankets and clothes are also provided to prisoners during the winter season keeping in view the weather conditions.

Creation of New **States**

*155. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of bills for creation of new States;

(b) the details of steps taken/proposed to sort out controversial/vexed issues relating to creation of new States; and

(c) by when the new States are likely to be created and the financial implications of the proposals, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Bills providing for reorganisation of the existing States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh so as to create the new States of Vananchal, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand/ Uttaranchal were referred by the President to the respective State Legislatures in August '98 for expressing their views thereon as required under article 3 of the Constitution of India. The views of the State Legislatures have since been received and the matter is under further examination. As the creation of new States involves examination of complex administrative and legal issues, it is difficult to fix a definite timeframe in this regard.

Setting up of Tourist Circuits

*156. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tourist circuits set up, so far, in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to develop some more national tourist circuits in the country;

(c) if so, the number of tourist circuits identified for development in Gujarat; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated tor the development of those tourist circuits during the last three years, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE-IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM: (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Identification and development of tourist circuits is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism has identified 19 circuits and 10 destinations for integrated development with the purpose of providing incentives to the Private Sector for setting up tourism infrastructure. These circuits and destinations are — Travel Circuits.

1. Kullu-Manali-Lahuk/Spiti-Leh-Monastic Circuit

2. Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orchha-Khajuraho

3. Bagdogra-Sikkim-Darjeeling-Kalimpong